

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 61-65, 67-75 and 77-84 are presented for consideration. Claims 61 and 71 are independent. Claims 66 and 76 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 61, 63, 64, 67, 69, 71, 73, 74, 77 and 79 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention, while claims 81-84 have been added to recite additional features of the subject invention. Support for these changes and claims can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 66, 67, 76 and 77 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Rather than rewriting these claims in independent form, Applicant has substantively incorporated the subject matter of dependent claim 66 in independent claim 61, and the subject matter of dependent claim 76 in independent claim 71. Claims 66 and 76 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and the dependencies of claims 67 and 77 have been changed accordingly. Applicant submits that these changes render independent claims 61 and 71 allowable.

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 61-65, 68-70, 71-75 and 78-80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,333,786 to Uzawa et al. Applicant submits that the cited art

does not teach many features of the present invention. Therefore, this rejection is respectfully traversed. Nevertheless, Applicant submits that independent claims 61 and 71, as presented, amplify the distinctions between the present invention and the cited art.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 61 recites a position detection apparatus for detecting a position of a mark on an object. The apparatus includes a camera which captures an image of the mark, an extraction section which extracts an edge position in image data obtained by differentiating the image data, a determination section which determines a position of the mark by comparing the edge position with a template, and a control section which changes at least one of a parameter used by the extraction section and a parameter used by the determination section, based on a result of the comparing by the determination section.

In another aspect of the present invention, independent claim 71 recites a position detection method of detecting a position of a mark on an object. The method includes steps of capturing an image of the mark using a camera, extracting an edge position in image data obtained in the capturing step by differentiating the image data, determining a position of the mark by comparing the edge position with a template, and changing at least one of a parameter used in the extracting step and a parameter used in the determining step, based on a result of the comparing in the determining step.

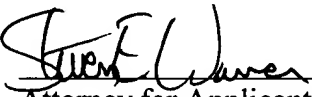
For the reasons noted by the Examiner in the Office Action, Applicant submits that the cited art does not teach or suggest such features of the present invention as recited in independent claims 61 and 71. Applicant submits, therefore, that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 61 and 71, is patentably defined over the cited art.

Dependent claims 62-65, 67-70, 72-75 and 77-84 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are also requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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